

Table 3. Fastest growing occupations, 2000-10

[Numbers in thousands of jobs]

Occupation	Employment		Change		Quartile rank by 2000 median annual earnings ¹	Most significant source of education or training
	2000	2010	Number	Percent		
Computer software engineers, applications	380	760	380	100	1	Bachelor's degree
Computer support specialists	506	996	490	97	2	Associate degree
Computer software engineers, systems software	317	601	284	90	1	Bachelor's degree
Network and computer systems administrators	229	416	187	82	1	Bachelor's degree
Network systems and data communications analysts	119	211	92	77	1	Bachelor's degree
Desktop publishers	38	63	25	67	2	Postsecondary vocational award
Database administrators	106	176	70	66	1	Bachelor's degree
Personal and home care aides	414	672	258	62	4	Short-term on-the-job training
Computer systems analysts	431	689	258	60	1	Bachelor's degree
Medical assistants	329	516	187	57	3	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Social and human service assistants	271	418	147	54	3	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Physician assistants	58	89	31	53	1	Bachelor's degree
Medical records and health information technicians	136	202	66	49	3	Associate degree
Computer and information systems managers	313	463	150	48	1	Bachelor's or higher degree, plus work experience
Home health aides	615	907	291	47	4	Short-term on-the-job training
Physical therapist aides	36	53	17	46	3	Short-term on-the-job training
Occupational therapist aides	9	12	4	45	3	Short-term on-the-job training
Physical therapist assistants	44	64	20	45	2	Associate degree
Audiologists	13	19	6	45	1	Master's degree
Fitness trainers and aerobics instructors	158	222	64	40	3	Postsecondary vocational award
Computer and information scientists, research	28	39	11	40	1	Doctoral degree
Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers	55	77	22	40	4	Short-term on-the-job training
Occupational therapist assistants	17	23	7	40	2	Associate degree
Veterinary technologists and technicians	49	69	19	39	3	Associate degree
Speech-language pathologists	88	122	34	39	1	Master's degree
Mental health and substance abuse social workers	83	116	33	39	2	Master's degree
Dental assistants	247	339	92	37	2	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Dental hygienists	147	201	54	37	1	Associate degree
Special education teachers, preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school	234	320	86	37	1	Bachelor's degree
Pharmacy technicians	190	259	69	36	3	Moderate-term on-the-job training

¹ The quartile rankings of Occupational Employment Statistics annual earnings data are presented in the following categories: 1=very high (\$39,700 and over), 2=high (\$25,760 to \$39,660), 3=low (\$18,500 to \$25,760), and 4=very low (up to \$18,490). The

rankings were based on quartiles using one-fourth of total employment to define each quartile. Earnings are for wage and salary workers.